

WATERFRONT TRAILS

Community Spotlight

Volunteer Trail Stewards Program “The Eyes & Ears of Eureka trails”

The Hikshari' Trail has become one of the prime destination areas in the City of Eureka. The trail has enabled community members to participate in their favorite activity in a safe and beautiful surrounding; increasing the likelihood for residents to get out and get active. Each and every day you can find members of the community walking, running, bicycling, birding, taking pictures, or kayaking and canoeing on the breathtaking Hikshari' Trail.

This trail doesn't maintain itself; it takes a collaborative effort between the city and some of our neighborhood heroes. One group of those unsung heroes is the Hikshari' Trail Stewards; a collaborative project made up of the Humboldt Trails Council, Friends of the Dunes, City of Arcata, City of Eureka, and the County of Humboldt.

“Our common interest is working in cooperation with the City and each other to help maintain this beautiful trail for the people of Eureka and beyond,” says Jane Stock, who works with the Stewards, “we have a core group of about 17



people who come every month, rain or shine.

The interest and enthusiasm is so high for this program that the stewards started up a second work day. Maintaining trails is labor intensive and expensive, so anything Volunteer Trail Stewards does contributes to the city's overall bottom line, but equally as important, are the steward's presence on the trail.

“We're sometimes called the *eyes and ears* of the trail, so we report problems or potential dangers,” says Stock, “we talk to trail users to get their feedback, concerns and compliments; the trail users come to know other users; further strengthening our community.”

The Hikshari' Trail is just one of the phases in the developing 6.5 miles contiguous trail that will go all along the Eureka Waterfront.

“This trail will draw people from all over Humboldt County to hike, bike, run, paddle, or whatever their interest is, on a regular basis,” says Stock, “tourists will

Waterfront Trail Progress

Currently, Parks & Recreation staff are working on plans to finalize the City's Waterfront Trail. Staff is working with consultants on all three phases of the Waterfront Trail, Phase A,

B and C. The special studies required for CEQA and NEPA are being developed for Phase A (Truesdale to Del Norte) and Phase C (Tydd Street to Adorni). The documentation will allow staff to move forward to develop plans and construction specifications for those sections of the Waterfront Trail. For Phase B (Del Norte to C Street), CEQA is already complete. Plans and specifications for this section of the trail are over 75% complete and should be finalized by mid-2014. Funding has been secured for all environmental and design work necessary to complete the Waterfront Trail. A



majority of the construction funding necessary for Phase A has also been secured. Parks & Recreation staff is researching grant opportunities in order to secure the funding necessary for Phase B and C construction.

Phase C (Tydd Street to Adorni)



enjoy it and will add to our local economy.”

Stock is excited for the fully developed trail, as she believes it will open up a wide range of community opportunities.

“Imagine Halvorson Park as the local kite flying place; local musicians jamming at the foot of F street every Sunday; group kayak paddles leaving from the Hikshari' Trail on top of all the hikers, bikers, etc; a trail like this will be a rare gem.”

